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★★★  
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# GEMETHYS PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD

## THE UNINVITED!



THE NEW



THERE'S NO  
STOPPING  
US NOW.

PÉREZ &  
CORON

"THERE, MY CHILD... IS TOPAZ KEEP!"

"LORD AQUAMARINE'S PROUD  
FLAGSHIP NEARS THE CLIFFS--"

"--AND THE LAST GUESTS  
ARE ARRIVING..."

I PRESENT THE  
LORD AND LADY  
MOONSTONE!"

"NO FRIEND TO OPAL HE, MY DEAR--  
LORD MOONSTONE STOOD WITH YOUR  
PARENTS TILL THE END!"

LADY EMERALD AND  
HER DAUGHTER, THE  
PRINCESS!"

"I FEAR FOR THE LADY... HER LATEST  
GRIEF, THE DEATH OF HER FIRST BORN, MAY  
BE THE LAST THAT SHE CAN BEAR!"

THE LADY  
TURQUOISE!"

"SO YOUNG AND HEADSTRONG--  
NOT UNLIKE ANOTHER I KNOW..."

"AND THERE ARE TWO WHO MUST BE RECKONED WITH...  
LADY SAPPHIRE IS QUITE SQUARLY IN DARK OPAL'S  
CAMP..."

"...AS THE HOUSE OF TOPAZ WILL ALSO BE SHOULD  
THE PRINCESS ASCEND TO RULE!"

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\$ IN THE AMETHYST PREVIEW -- KB





ALAS, THERE IS NO  
ONE TO ANSWER YOU,  
OLD MAN... NO ONE  
TO HEAR YOUR  
CRIES--

--OR TO  
CARE ABOUT  
THEM!

YOU ARE SURROUNDED  
BY SERVANTS OF THE  
OPAL--

--EVEN AS MY  
FINGERS GRASP  
THIS ZHARZ  
SEND YOUR  
DAUGHTER  
GIVE ME!

P-P- PLEASE...  
HELP MEEEE...

NOR CAN  
YOU.

I CANNOT  
WITHSTAND THE  
OPAL'S GREATER  
MAGIC...

IT IS  
DONE, LORD  
TOPAZ.

YOU ARE  
MINE -- REMADE  
IN MY IMAGE...

...AS THE  
ENTIRE  
GEMWORLD  
SHALL  
SOON BE!

# The UNINVITED

BY MISHKIN, COHN, COLÓN, COSTUMEA,  
ZILKO & BERGER

AND SO, DEAR LADIES, THERE  
I WAS, ALONE AGAINST THE  
BEAST!

ITS YELLOW EYES WERE GLARING  
AND ITS FETID BREATH WAS HOT  
UPON MY FACE!

THEN  
WHAT  
HAPPENED?

WHY THEN I  
THREW MY SWORD  
ASIDE--

--AND SLAY THE HORRID  
CREATURE WITH MY BARE  
HANDS!

OH, PRINCE CARNELIAN!

NOW, NOW--  
NO NEED TO  
SHOOON, DEAR  
GIRL...

ANY MAN WITH MY  
STRENGTH AND  
COURAGE WOULD  
HAVE DONE THE  
SAME!

"STRENGTH AND  
COURAGE--WHAT  
COMEDY!"

IS THIS THE SAME CARNELIAN  
WHO USED TO RUN INDOORS WHEN THE  
LATE SUN'S SHADOWS GREW TOO LONG?





... WHILE OUTSIDE, ASSEMBLED ROYALTY AND GUARDS  
HOLD ABOUT, AWAITING THE START OF THE DAY'S  
FESTIVITIES...

-- COMES FAR LESS SO...

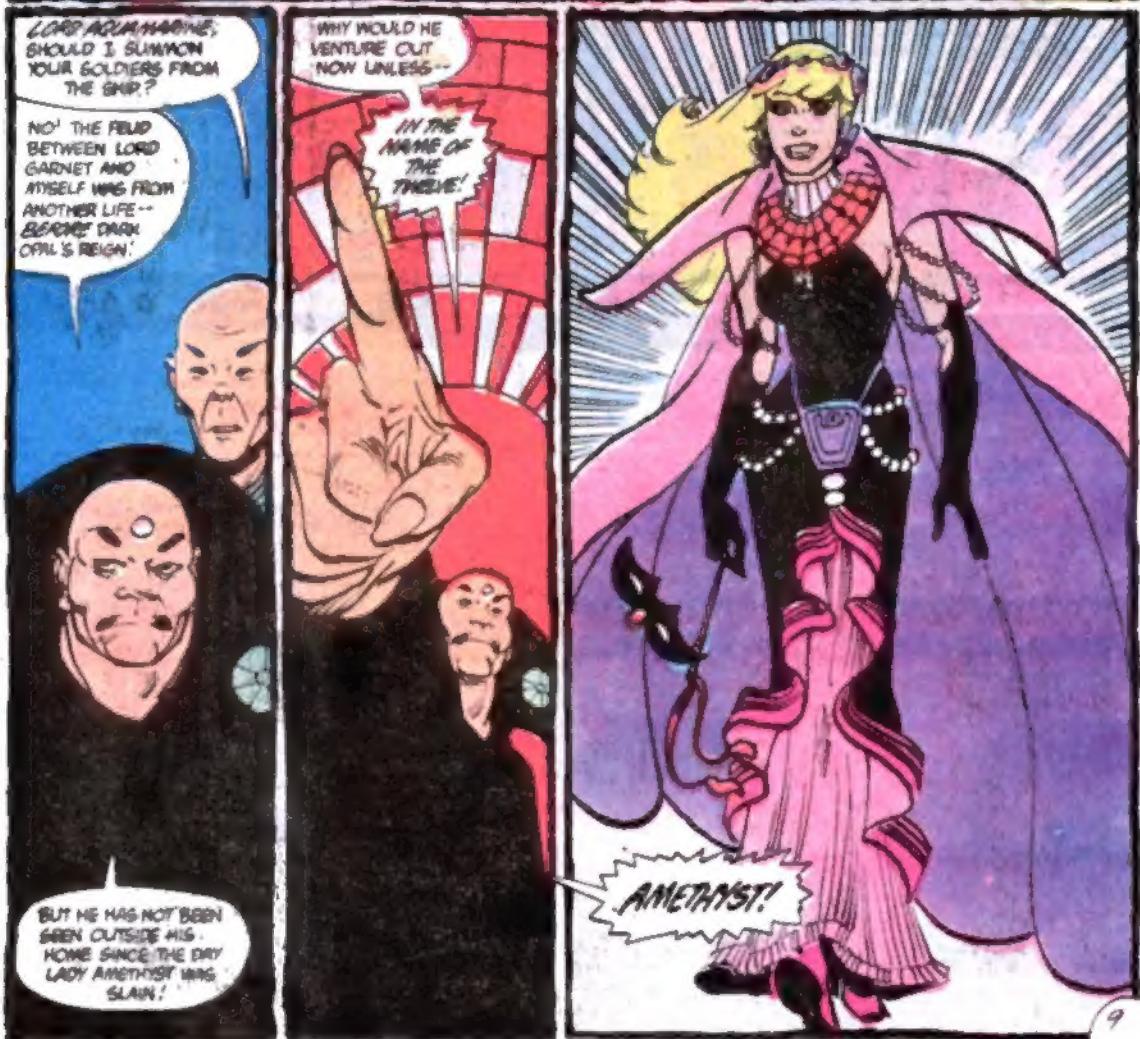
THIS WAITING MAKES ME NERVOUS! --  
IF SOMETHING SHOULD GO WRONG...



SLAY THE RED PRINCE AND  
DARK OVAL IS HUNGRY! WILL  
SURELY FALL UPON THE  
HOUSE OF MOONSTONE!

HOW DARE  
HE SHOW  
HIMSELF HERE!

CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING



BY MY MOTHER'S SWORD, 'IT CAN BE  
NONE BUT SHE'

THE RIGHTEOUS RULER OF HER  
PEOPLE HAS RETURNED!

ALL HAIL THE LADY  
AMETHYST REBORN-- AND  
SWEAR ALLEGIANCE  
TO HER!

MY LADY,  
DO NOT!

SHE'S A WILD ONE!  
ALL RIGHT! BUT I  
GUESS IT COULDN'T  
HURT TO...

UH OH

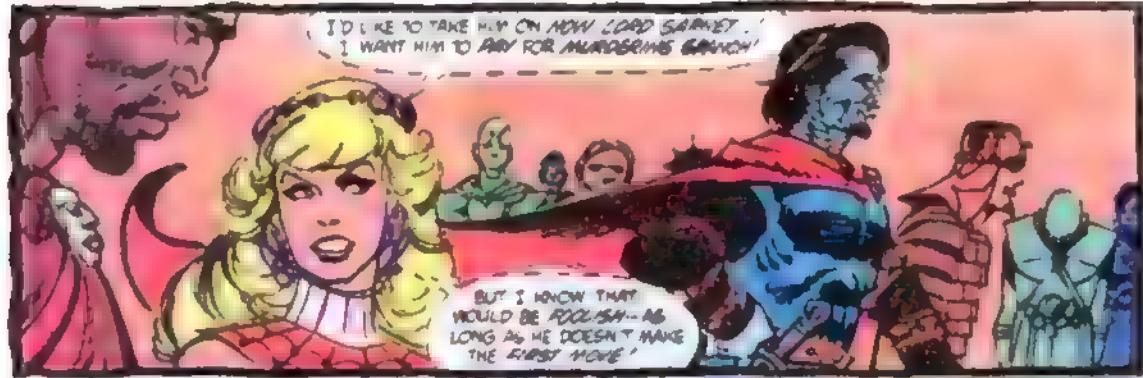
LET LADY TURQUOISE  
BE THE FIRST TO JOIN  
THEIR PARADE IN  
YOUR CITY.

YOUR LORD  
AND MASTER  
HAS FORGOTTEN!

GOOD  
SUBJECTS.  
PAY ME  
HEED!

DARK CROWN BIDS  
YOU ALL BE STILL... AND  
LET THE CEREMONY  
COMMENCE!

DARK  
CROWN?  
COOP





BUT KNOW THAT DARK ORA'S  
DOWNFALL WILL COME SOON.

IN FACT IT HAS  
ALREADY BEGUN!

WHEN TWO RIVAL BLOODLINES  
MARRY THEN ONE MUST GIVE UP  
BLOOD DENY ITS NAME . MAN  
AND WOMAN WED CANNOT BE  
STRANGERS -- NOT TWO  
HOUSES, BUT THE SAME

SINCE THE DAYS IN DISTANT AGES WHEN FROM  
ACROSS THE SEVEN SEAS WE CAME TWO WHOSE  
MAGIC CAME TOGETHER THIS WERE NOT TWO  
HOUSES, BUT THE SAME.

AND OUR HOUSE, LITTLE  
BROTHER SHALL BE  
NONE ALONE!

"THE SEVEN SEAS?"  
FUNNY, THAT'S WHAT  
THE OCEANS ON EARTH  
ARE SOMETIMES  
CALLED!

I WONDER  
IF THERE'S A  
CONNECTION .

HAVE YOU HEARD, MY  
SWEET--OF HOW I SHLEW  
THE MONSTER THAT--

PRINCE  
CARMELIAN HIGH!  
THE CEREMONY!



SMART  
DECISION,  
MOONSTONE

BUT IT IS ONLY OUT OF  
RESPECT FOR YOUR OLD  
FRIEND--

BUT OF COURSE, LORD  
MOONSTONE -- YOUR  
LOYALTY TO TORAZ WAS  
ALL THAT I COULD  
HOPE FOR



THERE WILL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES,  
SON OF OPAI! YOU WILL NOT BE  
SO LUCKY THEN!

...NOT FOR THE RED  
PRINCE OR HIS FATHER!

SHALL WE PROCEED  
NOW, MY LORD?

YES BY ALL  
MEANS.

FOR THAT  
I THANK  
YOU, MY  
FRIEND AND  
YOU,  
CARNELIAN



PROCEED

TORAZ, ARE YOU NOW FORGIVING NAME  
AND RANK AND BLOOD FOR SAPPHIRE'S  
HAND, RENDERING TO HER YOUR LAST  
DEVOTION -- ALL THE LOVE THAT YOU  
COMMAND?

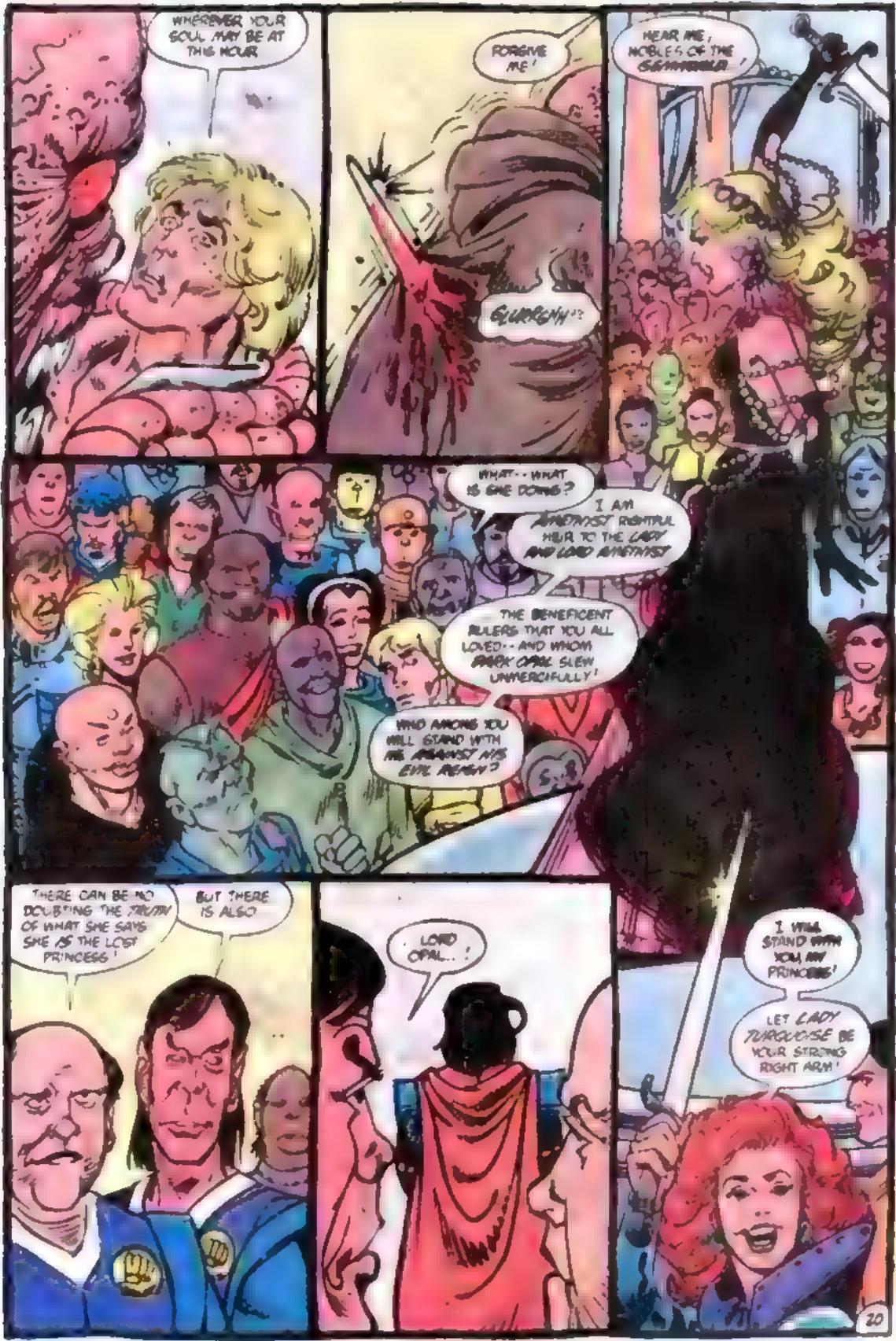
I... I...











COUNT THE HOUSE OF MOONSTEDEE TOO AMONG  
THOSE LOYAL TO THE PURPLE HEIR!

WE PLACE OUR LIVES IN  
THE SERVICE OF AMETHYST.

AND ANY ONE OF YOU WHO  
DOES NOT SWEAR TO HER MUST  
CALL HIMSELF MY ENEMY  
HEREAFTER!

NOW COULD MATTERS  
HAVE PROGRESSED THIS FAR?

CURSE YOU,  
SARDONYX - YOU  
SHOULD HAVE KILLED  
HER WHEN SHE  
FIRST REAPPEARED  
ON THE GEMWORLD!

BUT, MY LORD,  
YOU HAD AS  
MUCH CHANCE  
TO...

HAT  
DID YOU  
SAY?

N-NOTHING,  
BIRE - I SAID  
NOTHING  
AT ALL !

TOMIZ IS EVER  
AT YOUR SIDE,  
AMETHYST!

COAL WILL  
NOT LEAVE  
MY KEEP  
ALIVE

NO, MY BROTHER WITH  
OUR FATHER DEAD, THE  
ELDEST RULES THIS  
HOUSE!

I AM LADY TOMIZ  
NOW, AND I STAND  
WITH LORD DARK  
CIVL

AN OPPORTUNE OPPORTUNITY.  
CHANGE ISH HERE, MOONSTEAD!

AND I  
WELCOME IT.  
CARNEGAN!



### I have a vision

A vision of comics being all that they can be.

These are the opening lines of a speech I delivered at eight or ten major conventions during 1982. The lines were intended to segue into the major thrust of the address, that the comic industry's need for new talent would prevent my vision from ever becoming a reality unless a program was initiated by the major publishers to encourage the entry of new talent into the field.

But my speech never clearly delineated my vision, its origins, or its development and I'd like to do that now.

So I will.



Let's remember exactly how old I was. I was in bed. I was sickly as a child and spent lots of time in bed. Since I am an only child and my father worked and my mother had her chores, I spent a good many hours finding ways to occupy myself. My parents, bless em, knew how difficult it was for me and did everything they could to keep me comfortable. My father brought something home for me each night, something to help me while away the lonesome hours. This particular night he brought home a comic book. *Famous Funnies* to be exact. my first comic book ever. "Here you are, Dickie. Now you can read the funnies every day, not just on Sunday." I picked up the magazine he'd tossed on the bed, flipped through the pages, mesmerized — and I haven't been the same since!

I can tell you why those early comics affected me the way they did, but I was hooked and immediately became an avid reader. Soon I was writing and drawing my own comics, (sometimes on brown paper bags that my mother brought groceries home in) to pass the time between issues of my favorites. I remember, in particular, drawing "The Little King", a popular Sunday comic strip of the time, and my parents beaming proudly at my "talent". I really didn't need

much encouragement. I'd made up my mind that reading or drawing comics was fun and I would do both for as long as I could. Perhaps for the rest of my life. I was then seven years old.



Jump ahead five/six years. I'm in elementary school now, not so sickly anymore, lots of friends, getting into sports — baseball mostly. Still an avid reader (*Batman* wiped me out. Can't wait for the next issue, especially if the Joker is the villain), still drawing my own comics, which now tend to be adaptations of stories from the pulp magazines of the time, mostly sport stories. Each day when school ends, I buy a package of Drakes' cupcakes (3 to a package), trudge home and with a glass of milk, the radio turned on to Captain Midnight or Jack Armstrong, I spend the time waiting for my parents to come home from work reading my latest stack of comics. A major event in my life at that time was discovering that a classmate of mine, Pat Bove, shared my unbridled enthusiasm for reading comics (though he didn't draw them), bought his comics at a mysterious "other" store, seemed to be able to produce huge stacks of them, seemingly at will and they were almost all titles that I couldn't get at my store and we started trading. Now I could read two or three comics for everyone I bought. *Meet Thank You, Pat Bove,* wherever you are!



Graduated elementary school having already made a career choice. A vocational high school in the New York City system, The School of Industrial Art, offered courses in cartooning as well as all the other commercial arts. It also required its students to take all the necessary academic subjects needed to enter college, so my school day was quite long and there was a 45 minute subway ride in either direction to make the day longer. I think this is where my 4 AM rising time started. I worked

hard. I loved it. I learned my craft. Talent is a good start, but you do need training!

My high school years and my first year of working were uneventful. In the main. But the early fifties saw the emergence of EC Comics, and a new standard was set. I was knocked out of my socks by those comics. Here were stories that were literate, exciting, revolved around themes or messages that readers could relate to. They were well illustrated, beautifully colored, and, in my mind, all other comics paled by comparison. More than all this, you could feel that the creative people cared about their material, the editors (comics giants, Al Feldstein and Harvey Kurtzman) put their individual stamp on the books that they edited and publisher Bill Gaines supplied his support, direction and whatever else was needed to make it happen. The end result was a stunning line of comics that were fun to read and demanded that you care about them and their creators, who were given great visibility by the publisher and the editors.



This early vision of what comics can be still fires me today. I don't mean that I intend to copy EC Comics. Today's tastes have changed, but I do want to publish a line of DC Comics that will have the same overwhelming level of creative energy, that will have people working together who care about their material, each other, their reader and comics in general. Creators who work toward a common goal for love of the work and a desire to entertain and please an audience... as well as themselves. Creators who feel that they can make such a total commitment and not feel "It's just a job" to produce a line of comics that make a special statement. Their statement. In short, a line of comics I can read to recapture the excitement of a time, not too long ago, when comics were all they could be.

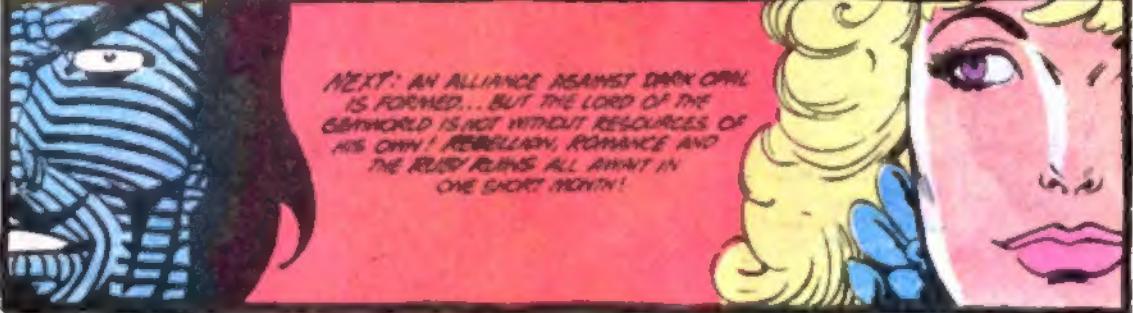
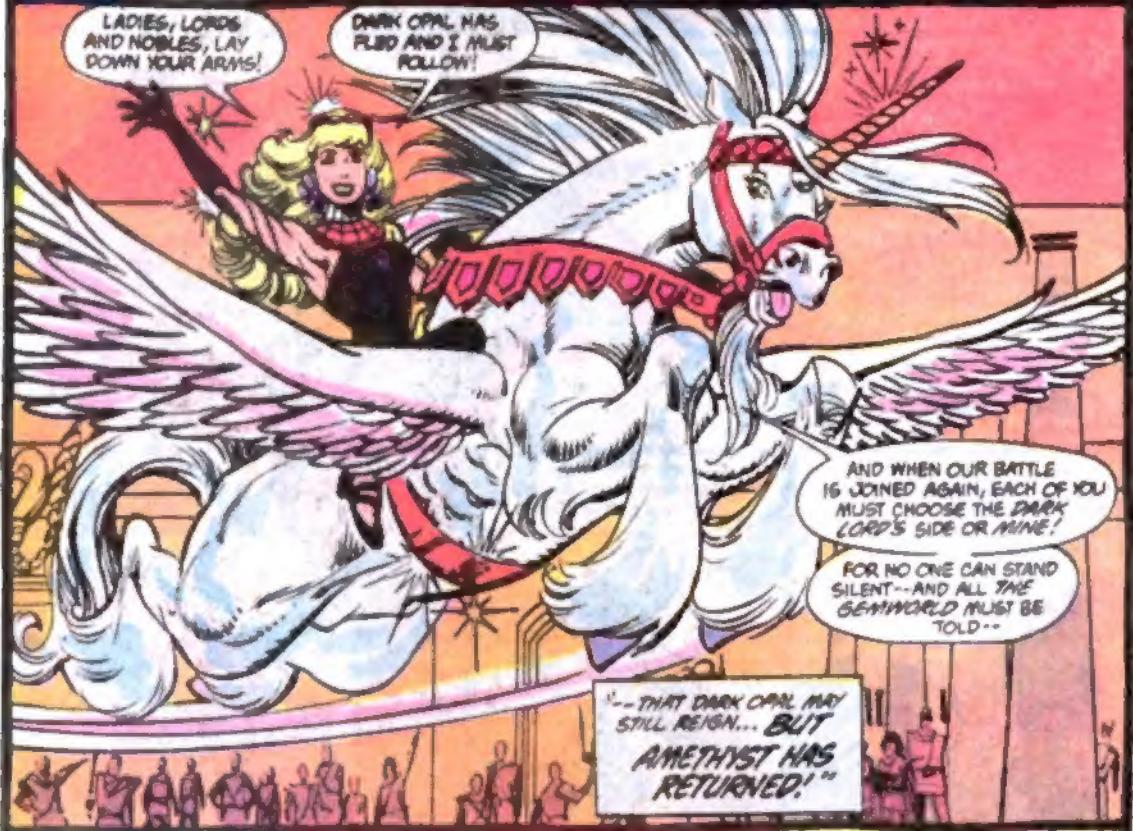


Maybe it won't happen this year, maybe it won't happen in the next five years. Maybe it won't happen ever.

But it won't be because I haven't tried. You see, I have a vision. Thank you and Good Afternoon.

Dick





# Purple Pose

DC COMICS, INC.,  
666 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103

L-1480

Dear Karen,

This is the first letter I've ever written to a comic book letter column and I hope it gets printed. But after reading *Amethyst* #'s 1, 2, 3 and 4, I had to write to you. You see, I had only been writing two series of comic books and that was occasionally. But, after seeing the *Amethyst* ad in *Sgt. Rock*, I decided to check it out. I liked it a lot! I enjoy fantasy stories.

I'd like to tell you my opinion of the characters. *Amethyst*—good for being a main star. But I think she needs to fight regularly sometimes instead of always using her spells. *Granch*—my favorite co-star. He's the main hero-guard of the good guys. *Citrina*—hmm. A witch whose powers are all but used up. *Dark Opal*—the mean bad guy type. He's my favorite enemy in the series. *Sardonyx*—an enemy who bumbles around and loses battles. *Carnelian*—the questionable type whose next move is unpredictable.

Well, that about wraps that up. But I've got a couple of questions. 1) Who is that little green lizard who gave the gem to Amy at the beginning of #1 and who does he belong to? 2) In times of trouble, why does *Fawn* appear to be smiling?

Keep up the great work on *Amethyst*, the maxi-series!

Jeff Miller  
1302 Hummingbird  
West Columbia, SC

*The little green lizard who's been popping up all over the place is none other than Citrina's little helper and all I'm going to say about Fawn is that she's certainly got some ideas of her own!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Dan, Gary, Ernie, & Karen,

"*Amethyst*" is a very engaging and well produced maxi-series. Issue #4 effectively continued this tradition. The revelations concerning *Amethyst*, *Granch*, *Dark Opal*, and *Gemworld* are all very interesting and exciting. I look forward to meeting and learning more about all of the "Royal Houses of the Gemworld". Does the House of *Amethyst* contain the only rebellious gemstone ruler? Lady *Emerald* seemed rather easily cowed and the Houses of *Sapphire* and *Topaz* show no signs of open opposition to the evil of *Dark Opal*. We now know that *Citrina* was a teacher of magic to students from both the Houses of *Amethyst* and *Opal*, did she also teach mystic skills to those of the other Royal Houses? Will it eventually be student to teacher loyalty that gains *Amethyst* the magical allies she will need to defeat *Dark Opal*? *Dark Opal* is a great villain. I loved his animated, seemingly sentient and spying broach. This small object was handled with thrilling detail and consistency. This kind of craftsmanship is truly entertaining to behold. *Amethyst* battled like a real trooper in her first real encounter with the magical, physical and psychological dangers of *Dark Opal*. Her next battle will require even more skill and preparation because *Dark Opal* will not underestimate her to such a great degree next time. It is nice (especially for the sake of *Gemworld*) to see *Amethyst* beginning to like her new roles of adult womanhood and



heroine, but I would be sadly disappointed if the adorable little *Amy Winstar* were to disappear from this series. I hope *Amethyst* will elect to maintain her Earthly identity and alter ego. This could serve as a great source of occasional escape and would give her a place to experience the joys of childhood. Becoming an adult over night can rob one of many valuable learning, growing and character building experiences. I hope *Amethyst* will realize this and decide to continue to balance her life between *Gemworld* adulthood and Earth childhood. Also I hate to see such potentially valuable supporting characters as *Amy's* Earth parents disappear from the plotline. They have invested a lot of love and time in *Amy* and I don't think they deserve to lose their daughter, whom they love so much and who has equally as much love for them. The *Amy Winstar* aspect of this title is one of its most charming. Please continue it with the excellent care it has thus far been accorded.

The superb script of Dan Mishkin and Gary Cohn was again matched by the hand-in-glove artistry of Ernie Colón, John Coetzane and Tom Zuko. Ernie Colón's style and flare seem to match this book perfectly. I expect that he is as responsible for the mood and characterization as are the writers. Whose idea was the ever-watching and ever-expressive broach worn by *Dark Opal*, the writers or the artist? I also approve of *Amethyst's* less cumbersome crown.

Congratulations on another very fine issue of *Amethyst, Princess Of Gemworld*.

Yours in Fandom,  
Wallace Lee Hopkins  
Box 428  
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Ernie "we don't call him imaginative for nothing" Colón came up with the idea for *Dark Opal's* ever-observant broach, Wallace. And yes, Ernie does contribute greatly to the characters very different personalities, as well as to the changing mood of the book. *Amethyst* is very much a collaborative effort.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Karen,

Usually, I'm pretty resistant to fantasy comics. Most of them are either Conan rip-offs or warmed-over Tolkein. (Let's face it: once you've seen one cosmic being achieve godhood you've seen them all.)

I went into *Amethyst* with some reservations. First, there was that *Masters of the Universe* mini-series which preceded it. Now I had to cross my fingers and hope that another fantasy series four-times as long will go down a little better with me. Then there was the preview in *LSH* #298. It was OK, but not all that different, especially for *Epic* and *Heavy Metal* readers (like me).

But now, with issue #4 and the story one-third of the way done, I must write to tell you that it took a while, but you've got me. I'm hooked. This comic is shaping up very well indeed.

I like the characters. *Amethyst* herself needs to grow up a

little if she needs to succeed. What a great concept! Stephen King, in his book *Dance Macabre*, says that most heroic fantasy fails because there isn't much interest in reading of a hero just using his powers. Great fantasy has the loss and the regaining of powers, material, magical or spiritual. This is a plus for *Amethyst*. The heroine must learn to use her powers effectively, or fail... I think Stephen King would love to read this comic.

Miehkin & Cohn's art fits the genre very well. It isn't realistic (a phony criteria anyway), but it's moody and fantastical enough to make it work. And let's have some praise for Tom Ziuko the colorist. Would pages 10 and 13-14 look just as great in black and white? The colors are very effective in this title, and I'd like to give credit where credit is due.

Now that I'm hooked, what do I do when it's all over? Oh, sure, I could reread it, but be serious. I'm going to do that anyway. How about a sequel? Or an annual? Or how about giving it the back-up spot in *Wanted?* (It's more appropriate than what they have now.) There are only 8 more to go. Give us a break. Give us more *Amethyst* when this is over. Please?

Glenn Draeeler  
RR #2, Box 191AA  
Kankakee, IL 60901

We're very likely going to be producing *Amethyst* in some way, shape or form when this maxi-series is over, Glenn, because of the very positive letters we've been receiving. But, as I said in issue #4, as soon as the word is official, you'll be the first to know!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Karen,

*Amethyst* is a smashing comic, which came as a something of a surprise to me, initially. The fanzine "tidbits" I read before the preview appeared made me think it was not my kind of comic. Well, I was wrong.

With four issues out, I am totally captivated with the saga of Princess Amethyst and her alter ego, Amy. Dan Miehkin and Gary Cohn have come up with a marvelous fairy tale, which I can imagine will appeal to a broad age-range. The Gemworld is both charming and frightening, much as Tolkein middle-Earth is.

Ernie Colon is a revelation on this comic! His work on *Arik*, subject as it was to critiquing by others, didn't particularly impress me. Ernie's solo art on *Amethyst* is, well, it's many things. It's attractive, imaginative, intriguing, amusing and just plain fun. I couldn't picture anyone else doing justice to the story.

Yours,  
Dale Coe  
41 Whitecross Road  
Warrington  
Cheshire, England

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Karen,

This is the first letter I've written to a comics letters page because I've never been excited enough with them before. I started buying "Amethyst" because I had begun to collect comics, but I am getting very hooked on the story. I never expected anything as impressive as this series.

I have some suspicions about Fawn. In #3, on pg. 18, she seemed to have an evil look on her face. Now in #4, each time things are going bad for Amethyst, Fawn smiles. When things are going good, she seems upset. Is she an agent of Opal?

I'm glad you are introducing the other gemstone royalties. The plight of Princess Emerald seems terrible indeed. And I'm looking forward to seeing more of Prince Topaz. Do you have any plans for aquamarine? I hope so, since that is my birthstone.

Seems Dark Opal got part of what he deserved when Citrine closed the portal around his hand. He sure is a nasty character! (understatement of the year)

The artwork is perfect! Love the series so far. Keep up the great work!

Darryl Trapp  
P.O. Box 344  
Perryton, Texas 79070

Thanks for making *Amethyst* your "first". Darryl, and now since this maxi-series has officially entered its half-way point, expect to see more royal lords and ladies in the thick of things. And just your fuck, we do have plans for Aquamarine!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Karen,

The time for silence has passed. I will not go into all the many positive aspects of *Amethyst*. It should suffice simply to say that there are many. Still...

*Amethyst* #4 was graced with the best cover thus far and the story, hand in hand with the art, made a very enjoyable issue. I feel that *Amethyst* has much more potential than a twelve-issue maxi-series, though it may lack the strength to carry as a permanent title. Maybe another maxi-series as mentioned this issue would be appropriate.

I am fascinated at how this so-called project has developed into one of DC's best! I'm glad *Amethyst* finally realizes that she should go back and inform her earth parents of her "other life" since this will nicely end what could be an over-used subplot.

It can be only up from here.

Take care.

"Chris Sullivan

139 Kingston Rd.  
Lake Parsippany, NJ

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Gem People,

Very seldom is it that a comic book will come along that sort of strikes with a total "wow". The concept of *Amethyst* is one of wonder, one of awe. Action series like *Teen Titans* or *Superman* are great, but *Amethyst* is well, great too! I hardly think of *Amethyst* as an adventure series in the true sense—while other titles rely heavily on flashy costumes, bulging muscles, interesting sound effects, *Amethyst* is pure fantasy—it's another world.

All trivia aside, let me say that *Amethyst* will be better off if she doesn't know exactly what she can do. For example, a typical new character will say, "Gosh, I'm a super-powered person with ability to fly, use power blasts and tune into cable television" and so on.

True enough, *Amethyst* is not a super heroine in the true sense, that is if you mean one who stops bank robbers, but she is a heroine. Keep her powers something to be relatively unknown, as it adds interest and keeps the plot moving.

Overall, *Amethyst* is great. The story and artwork perfectly sets off the characters—*Amethyst*, beyond words! Dark Opal, perfectly chilling. A true villain. Oh, yes, someone I hope stays around, Grench. Perfectly fearsome and friendly. Hope to see some type of relationship between him and *Amethyst*.

I haven't seen stuff like this since I read Frank Herbert's *Dune*.

Matt Lewis  
104 Bennoch Road  
Orono, Maine

\*\*\*\*\*

And now for something completely different:

Dear Editor,

What's all this I hear about a comic called *Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld*? Frankly I think it's disgraceful that you would do a comic about a character who doesn't believe in God!

What's the world coming to? Lord knows there are enough people in the world who don't worship in Church without you publishing comics to encourage them even more! I say this has to stop! After all, if this character has no one to pray to, then she won't be able to utter such classic comic book phrases as "Good Lord", "Holy Hannah" and "Oh, my God!"

And what's this princess doing on a world full of germs anyway? Why are you publishing a comic about a non-believer who lives in such a filthy, disgusting place? If you want my opinion, I say this comic is...

What? You say it's called *Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld*? Oh, well, that's completely different.

Never mind.

Mrs. Emily Latella

(Live from) New York City, NY

For those of you who haven't seen *DC PRESENTS* #63 this month, run right back to the store and grab a copy before it's too late! *Amethyst* is Superman's special guest-star in "World's to Conquer", a tale of magic and mystery in Metropolis and the Gemworld!

NEXT MONTH: Just three words—Diamonds and Dust! See you then, Karen